Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government):* As a matter of fact that has all along been our presumption. The fact that it has not been done has been suggested here. I have been made aware of that only after supplementary questions were raised here. We have issued further instructions to the Police in the matter.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* So is it the position that the Secretary did not consider it necessary to resort to this practice before supplementary questions were raised here?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government):* As a matter of fact, I, for a moment, never doubted that the complainant would not be examined. *(Laughter).*

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* My point is even after getting so many reports from the Police that the allegations of complainant are false, that the Secretary did not consider it worthwhile to begin to suspect these reports.

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government):* I am afraid, I did not at all suspect when the Police reported that the allegations of the complainants were false, that the complainants were not examined.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know whether the Government has now at least noted that in all cases regarding ill-treatment of persons by Police officers, the Police report has been invariably that the allegations were un-true?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government):* I said even the other day that that has been so. And I also said that there have been instances where complaints have been found to be true and where drastic disciplinary action entailing even dismissal from service has been ordered.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether in this particular case the further investigation promised will be merely questioning the constables there and getting a negative answer?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government):* No, Sir.

FEMALE LABOUR—EXPLOITATION OF

129. Mrs. K. M. R. Menon *(Trichur-Women):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

are the Government aware that due to the scarcity of male labourers, there has been a certain amount of exploitation of female labour?

Mr. K. Balakrisha Menon *(Minister for Development):*
No.

Mrs. K. M. R. Menon *(Trichur-Women):* Sir, along with this question I sent 4 other questions and I am surprised that not one of them other than this has been answered. The questions that were sent are.....

Mr. President: Is the Hon'ble Member putting a supplementary question on this?

Mrs. K. M. R. Menon *(Trichur-Women):* When I sent my question it had 3 or 4 sub-divisions a, b, c, etc. But here I find only one sub-division answered.

Mr. President: The Secretary to the Council explains that the various sub-divisions to the Hon'ble Member's question related to different matters. Therefore he had to split the question into several questions.

Mrs. K. M. R. Menon *(Trichur-Women):* May I know, Sir, whether there is any discrimination in the payment of wages to women and men that are employed for the same type of work?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* There is some difference.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* Are not the Government aware that for some time past there has been a tendency to employ too many women even in preference to men?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* Government have not come across any such instances of that particular tendency.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* Are Government aware that there has been an unusually large number of women employees for some years now?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* Government have not taken any statistics about that. Therefore Government are not in possession of information required by the Hon'ble Member.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I draw the attention of Government, Sir, to Appendix I of the answer to question No. 123. The proportion of women in the 7 factories mentioned there is higher than the men employees.

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* The question here is whether there has been a certain amount of exploitation of female labour. I cannot answer without statistics that there is exploitation.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* So, Sir, is the emphasis of negative placed upon the word "Exploitation"?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* Exploitation of female labour is the question here.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* According to Appendix I, Sir, the proportion of men against women in the 7 factories mentioned therein is 83 against 170, 30 against 40, 6 against 40, 20 against 90, 6 against 35 and 7 against 12. What is the disparity due to?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* Yes, Sir, I find that.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* But still your negative stands!

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* Just because the proportion of women exceeds that of the men, it is not a logical corollary that there is exploitation of women. Exploitation according to Government means one man taking advantage of a particular situation and exploit women.

Mrs. K. M. R. Menon *(Trichur-Women):* There is a vast difference in the proportion of men against women in the case of the 7 factories mentioned in Appendix I.

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* That is so, Madam.

Mrs. K. M. R. Menon *(Trichur-Women):* Is that not exploitation?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* I would submit that it is not exploitation.

Mr. President: Possibly the work is more suitable for women. (*Laughter*).

Mrs. K. M. R. Menon *(Trichur-Women):* It is cheaper, that is the reason.

Mr. S. P. Luiz *(Nominated):* May I know, Sir, whether there is any industry in the State where no women are employed at all?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* I am not in a position to say now.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know whether Government are aware that in certain instances smaller wages are given to women than men for the same type of work?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* I am not in a position to say that now.

Mrs. K. M. R. Menon *(Trichur-Women):* May I know whether Government have considered any scheme of crochet?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* Yes, Government have.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Nellayi):* May I know, Sir, whether for the same quantit of work same wages will be given to both men and women?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* I cannot answer that hypothetical question.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know whether in the State Public Works Department for the same type of work in connection with maintenance of roads such as carrying head loads, watering, etc., same wages are paid to both men and women. Is there any difference?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes, there is some difference, in the out-turn of work. A woman labourer will not be able to do the same kind of work as a male labourer.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* Are the wages on a piece-rate basis?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The rates have been fixed according to the capacity of the labourers' work, in respect of the particular item. Our estimated rates have been fixed on that basis.

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Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* That is not my question, Sir. My question is whether, for the same kind of work in the P. W. D. such as to draw water to carry sand which is attended to by both men and women they are paid the same wage.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I shall explain. In the case of earth-work cutting earth, which is a portion of the work, is always entrusted to men labourers. The carrying of earth in a basket from one place to another is given sometimes to women. That is an easier task. And therefore the rates of wages ought to be fixed on that basis. The principle is generally accepted everywhere.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* So, is it the case of Government that the men turn out more work even in respect of such labour as carrying of loads of sand and drawing of water than women?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* And for that reason you pay them lower?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Higher.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* Are the wages fixed on the turn-over ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The wages have been originally fixed on the possible turn-over.

Mrs. T. Francis *(Women-Ernakulam):* Same amount of time is utilised by women also although the out-turn is less. Therefore my point is that they undergo the same amount of fatigue and exertion as in the case of men and therefore they should be paid equal wages.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Egnineer):* This may be true. But the quantity of work turned out by them is very much less than the quantity of work turned out by the male labourers.

Mrs. K. M. R. Menon *(Trichur-Women):* May I know, Sir, whether there is any standard wage for women workers in the State ?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* At present there is no standard wage fixed for the women worker, except of course by the P.W.D.

Mrs. K. M. R. Menon *(Trichur-Women):* It is high time to take up that question especially when there are so many women labourers all over the State.

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* We have constituted a Committee to go into these question.

Mrs. K. M. R. Menon *(Trichur-Women):* Will the Government be able to fix equal wages for the women also ?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* I am not in a position to answer that.

Mrs. K. M. R. Menon *(Trichur-Women):* For the same kind of work and for the same quantity of work, will the Government be pleased to fix a uniform rate ?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* That is a suggestion which I will place before the Committee, that will enquire into the matter.

TEXTILES—QUOTA FOR MERCHANTS—PARTICULARS OF

130. മിസ്റ്റർ എം. കെ. വർഗ്ഗീസ്: താഴെ പറയുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്ക ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെണ്ട സദയം മറുപടി നൽകുമോ.—

(എ) ഓരോ തുണിക്കച്ചവടക്കാർക്ക് അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന കോട്ട എത്രയെന്നും, ആ ചരക്ക് എന്നുമുതൽ വില്പന ആരംഭിക്കുമെന്നും. ആ കടയിൽനിന്നും വാങ്ങിക്കേണ്ടവർക്ക് അറിവു ലഭിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം പരസ്യപ്പെടുത്താറുണ്ടോ ;

(ബി) ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ആര് ; എങ്ങിനെ പരസ്യപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു?

രാമവർമ്മ തമ്പുരാൻ :

(എ) ഓരോ കച്ചവടക്കാരന്റെയും കോട്ട അവന്റെ ഫ്രഫ്രൻ-ഷെ വില്പനയെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയാണ് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഡിസ്ട്രിബ്യൂഷൻ അതോറിറ്റിയുടെ നിർദ്ദേശപ്രകാരം മൊത്തക്കച്ചവടക്കാരാണ് കോട്ട ചില്ലറക്കച്ചവടക്കാർക്ക് വിതരണംചെയ്യു.

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